

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system for managing an asset connectable to a computer network, said asset management system comprising:

storage means for storing management information of an asset, including asset identifying information identifying the asset and node identifying information identifying a connection node of a computer network to which the asset is connected;

determining means for determining, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a sender and destination of the information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset;

gathering means for gathering management information, including asset identifying information identifying an asset being managed and node identifying information identifying a connection node to which the asset is connected, from the information circulating over the computer network, when it is determined by said determining means that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset,; and

updating means for comparing the gathered management information with storage contents of the storage means and when the management information and the storage contents are not the same, updating the storage contents of the storage means by the gathered management information.

2. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on a software asset executed by the asset.

3. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on a hardware asset constituting the asset.

4. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 2, wherein said management information includes information on a hardware asset constituting the asset.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and, if it is, information on a lease expiration date of the asset,

further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and

means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 2, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and

means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 3, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and if it is, information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and

means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 4, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and

means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

9. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is

detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

10. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 2, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

11. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 3, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

12. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 4, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

13. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 5, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

14. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 6, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

15. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 7, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

16. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 8, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the

asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system for managing an asset connectable to a computer network, said asset management system comprising:

- a storage medium storing management information of an asset including information identifying the asset and node identifying information identifying a connection node of a computer network to which the asset is connected;

- a controller connected to said storage medium, performing processes comprising:

- (i) determining, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a sender and destination of the information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset;

- (ii) gathering the management information including information identifying an asset being managed and node identifying information identifying a connection node to which the asset is connected, from the information circulating over the computer network, when it is determined by said determining means that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset;; and

- (iii) comparing the gathered management information with a storage contents of the storage medium and when the management information and the storage contents are not the same, updating the storage contents of the storage medium by the gathered management information.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system in which an asset management client of each section gathers management information of assets connectable to a computer network which assets belong to each section and an asset management server analyzes the management information gathered by the asset management client of each section to thereby manage assets of all the sections, wherein:

- said asset management server comprises a storage medium for storing a master file

where management information of an asset is registered, said management information including information identifying each section, information identifying an asset belonging to each section and node identifying information identifying a connection node capable of connecting the asset at each section to the computer network,

said asset management client comprises a storage medium for storing, in association with information identifying the belonging section of said asset management client, management information of an asset including information identifying an asset belonging to the section of said asset management client and node identifying information identifying a connection node of the computer network to which the asset is connected, from the information circulating over the computer network; and

a controller connected to the storage medium, gathers the management information of the asset belonging to the section of said asset management client, which management information is included in information circulating over the computer network and includes information identifying an asset, being managed, of the section of said asset management client and node identifying information identifying a connection node to which the asset is connected, from the information circulating over the computer network, when it is determined that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset, being managed, of the section of said asset management client or information addressed to the asset, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, to identify a sender and a destination of the information circulating over the computer network, and

said asset management server further comprises a controller connected to the storage medium and analyzing the management information of an asset belonging to each section, which management information is gathered by the asset management client of each section, comparing the management information with the storage contents of the storage medium and, when the management information and the storage contents are not the same, updating the storage contents of the storage medium by the gathered management information

wherein said controller determines, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a sender and destination of the information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an asset management client connected at a position through which information circulating via the computer network passes; and

means for detecting that an asset not being managed is connected to the network and activating an alarm notification upon such detection.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a communication log of each section storing data items including sender and destination addresses of information circulating over the network; and

means for detecting whether the addresses are those of an asset being managed and when an asset not being managed is detected alerting an administrator.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 21, further comprising:

means for determining whether an asset has been transferred, automatically updating the contents of the asset registration and producing an alarm notification when the contents of the registration of the asset manager register master have been automatically updated.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a software/hardware log connected at a position through which information circulating via the network passes; and

means for analyzing the log and automatically updating the content of the asset management register using the log.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a section asset master storing asset licenses; and

means for checking the licenses when it is determined that the software asset is one being managed.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CANCELLED)

27. (CANCELLED)

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system for managing an asset connectable to a computer network, said asset management system comprising:

a storage unit storing management information of an asset, including information identifying the asset and node identifying information identifying a connection node of a computer network to which the asset is connected;

a determining unit for determining, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a sender and destination of the information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset;

a gathering unit gathering management information included in information circulating over the computer network, including information identifying an asset being managed and node identifying information identifying a connection node to which the asset is connected, from the information circulating over the computer network, when it is determined by said determining means that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset,; and

an updating unit for comparing the gathered management information with storage contents of the storage unit and when the management information and the storage contents are not the same, updating the storage contents of the storage unit by the gathered management information.